

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

The Final Rejection dated October 27, 2003, asserts that the claims are *prima facie* obvious. However, even if the claims are *prima facie* obvious, any *prima facie* case of obviousness based on the cited prior art is rebutted by the significant reduction in injuries that result when a person strikes the recited glazing, which "in a non-intact and bent state, has a Triplex Laceration Index of 7 or less". Because *prima facie* obviousness is rebutted, the obviousness rejections should be withdrawn.

Claims 12, 15-22 and 26-29 are pending in this application. Claims 12 is independent.

The present invention provides a glazing which affords exceptional laceration protection to persons striking against the glazing after it has shattered. The lacerations that result when a person strikes against a shattered laminated glazing are far more severe than those that result when a person strikes against an intact glazing surface, which breaks up only afterwards. The laceration protection achieved by the present invention is provided by a laminated glazing produced by adhering together, with an intercalary adhesive layer having a thickness of more than 0.76 mm, two sheets of glass each having a thickness of from 1.5 to 3 mm and having a core compressive stress in the central zone ranging from 20 to 50 MPa. The glazing, in a non-intact and bent state, has a Triple Laceration Index ("TLI") of 7 or less, indicative of superior anti-laceration properties.

The Triple Laceration Index is described in Pickard J., Brereton P., Hewson A.: An objective method of assessing laceration damage to simulate facial tissues - The Triplex Laceration Index - Proceeding of 17th Conference - American Association of Automotive Medicine 1973, pages 148-165 (copy attached to Amendment filed September 15, 2003).

Claims 12, 15-19 and 28-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,397,647 ("Kramling") in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,558,415 ("Rieser"), or alternatively,

Rieser in view of Kramling. In addition, Claims 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kramling in view of Rieser, or alternatively, Rieser in view of Kramling, and further in view of Admitted Prior Art at specification page 2, fourth paragraph. Claims 26-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kramling in view of Rieser, or alternatively, Rieser in view of Kramling, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,910,074 ("Fukawa").

Any *prima facie* case of obviousness based on the cited prior art is rebutted by the significant reduction in injuries that result when a person strikes the recited glazing, which "in a non-intact and bent state, has a Triplex Laceration Index of 7 or less".

The cited prior art discloses laminated glass for reducing injuries to people caused by striking against intact, unbroken, glass in a laminated glazing. However, the cited prior art fails to suggest improved protection for people striking against non-intact laminated glazing.

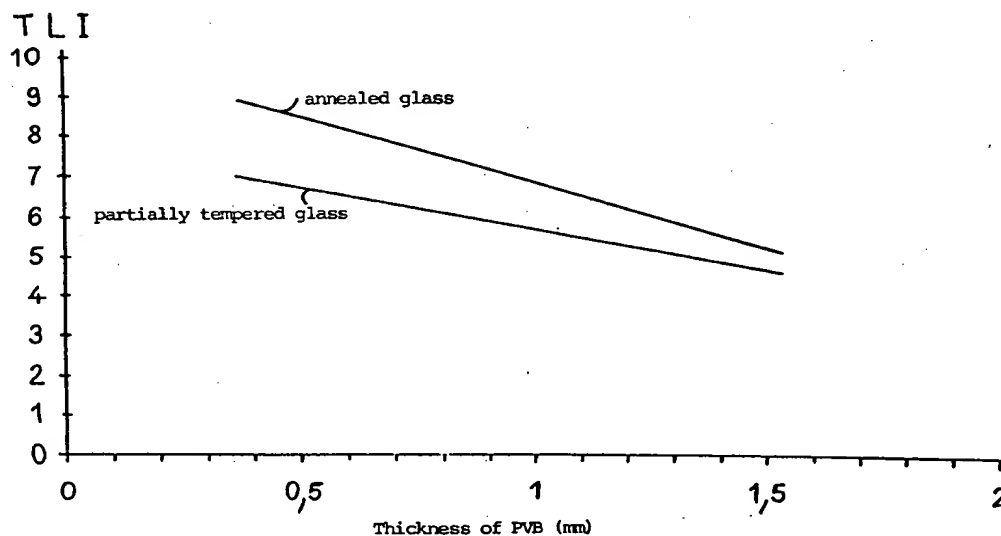
Kramling is directed to a laminated glazing having both the high resistance to particles of thermally toughened glass and the high visibility when cracked of annealed glass. See, e.g., Kramling at column 2, lines 45-58. While Kramling's glazing contains a sheet of plastic sandwiched by two glass sheets, Kramling is silent about the thickness of the plastic sheet.

Rieser discloses laminated safety glass with two chemically tempered glass sheets. Rieser at column 3, lines 38-43, discloses that in chemical tempering, the compressive stress can range from a relatively high level at the surfaces to zero at a depth of only a few thousandths of an inch below the surface. However, Rieser does not specify the core compressive stress in the glass sheets.

Fukawa is cited for disclosing a functional layer in a laminated glass and a plastic sheet on the laminated glass. Office Action at page 5, section 7.

The superior anti-laceration properties of the glazing produced by the claimed method are discussed in specification at Example 1 and illustrated in Fig. 1, which is reproduced below.

FIGURE 1



The partially tempered glass in Fig. 1 has a surface stress of 45 ± 10 MPa, which is equivalent to a core compressive stress in the central zone approximately equal to 22 ± 5 MPa. Specification at page 8, lines 20-21. In contrast, the annealed glass in Fig. 1 has a core compressive stress of approximately zero. Fig. 1 shows that laminated glazing produced by the method of independent Claim 1 using the compressively stressed partially tempered glass exhibits a significantly lower TLI, indicative of lacerations of less severity, than laminated glazing produced using the non-compressively stressed annealed glass.

Because the cited prior art fails to suggest the significant reduction in injury ("Triplex Laceration Index of 7 or less") to persons upon striking non-intact and bent glazing produced according to the present invention by adhering together, with an intercalary adhesive layer

having a thickness of more than 0.76 mm, two sheets of glass each having a thickness of from 1.5 to 3 mm and having a core compressive stress in the central zone ranging from 20 to 50 MPa, any *prima facie* case of obviousness is rebutted. Thus, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)

Norman F. Oblon
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 24,618

Corwin P. Umbach, Ph.D.
Registration No. 40,211